

[Home](#) [Exclusive Stories](#) [Tech News](#) [Science News](#) [Reviews](#) [About Us](#)[G+](#) [✉](#)[Home](#) [Exclusive Stories](#) [Tech News](#)[Science News](#) [Reviews](#) [About Us](#)

Home	Exclusive News	Tech News ▼	Science News	Reviews ▼	🔍
----------------------	--------------------------------	---	------------------------------	---	-------------------

[Global News](#) • [Internet & Social Media](#)

Crypto mining malware hits 4,000 websites by infecting only a single file

February 14, 2018 • 0 Comments • by Martin Suan



Photo by TheDigitalArtist / CC0 1.0

[Home](#)[Exclusive News](#)[Tech News](#) [▼](#)[Science News](#)[Reviews](#) [▼](#)[f](#) Share[🐦](#) Tweet[✉](#) Subscribe

Around 4,000 websites were affected by the recent hacking of a software used by several government-owned websites, including those in the U.K. The culprit? A crypto mining code inserted in Browsealoud, a plugin that gives support to speech, reading, and translation.

On Feb. 11, Sunday, hackers secretly inserted a Coinhive miner code intended to extract Monero digital currencies by using the central processing unit (CPU) of a site visitor's device or machine.

In itself, cyrptomining is not a bad thing, but the process requires extreme computing power that most of the times, it could use 100 percent of an ordinary laptop or device's CPU resources. Unless you have a powerful hardware to mine cryptocurrencies, digital mining could not only decrease your device's speed and performance, but could also damage the hardware.

Advertisement

Sunday's breach on Browsealoud **was first spotted** by information security consultant Scott Helme, who found the CoinHive Miner's code hiding underneath the plugin's Javascript file, which was used and hosted by several Australian and U.K. government websites. The hacker only attacked a single product to affect a thousand, he said.

Helme also said hackers changed Browsealoud's code and inserted a "CoinHive crypto miner to any page it was loaded into."

"This is a pretty bad situation to be in and any site that loads that file will now have the crypto miner installed. The sheer number of sites affected by this is huge and some of them are really prominent government websites!" he added.

Texthelp acknowledged the breach and temporarily took down their website. The government websites also temporarily shutoff their services. All later returned after a fix was released.

Texthelp said the attacker **added the code to the file** "to use the browser CPU in an attempt to illegally generate cryptocurrency." Fortunately, the action was quick and the exploit lasted only four hours.

There were no attempts to extort or ransom money from them, Texthelp said. And what was more assuring was that no customer data were accessed or lost.

"Texthelp can report that this attacker did not attempt to extort or ransom money from Texthelp or Texthelp customers. The company has examined the affected file thoroughly and can confirm that no customer data has been accessed or lost. The file used the computer's CPUs to attempt to generate cryptocurrency. The exploit was active for a

[Home](#)[Exclusive News](#)[Tech News ▾](#)[Science News](#)[Reviews ▾](#)

This is the latest incident of crypto mining involving Monero, **which was banned**, although not completely, by Malwarebytes last year in October for shady execution.

“We do not claim that CoinHive is malicious, or even necessarily a bad idea. The concept of allowing folks to opt-in for an alternative to advertising, which has been plagued by everything from fake news to malvertising, is a noble one. The execution of it is another story,” Malwarebytes said in a post.

Advertisement

Sign-up for our newsletter!
Sign-up today and receive weekly content for free!
Email address*

Subscribe **campayn**

Just a little favor

Help us deliver news that is accurate, balanced, and clear by rating our posts. Feel free to make honest-to-goodness ratings (from 1=lowest to 5=highest) or give some quick comments and suggestions. Thanks a lot!

How well do you understand this post? ☆☆☆☆☆

How reliable do you find the information in this post? ☆☆☆☆☆

How unbiased is this post for you? ☆☆☆☆☆

How likely are you to share this post to others? ☆☆☆☆☆

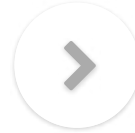
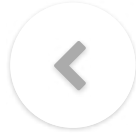
Are the ads distracting you? (1=Yes to 5=Not at all) ☆☆☆☆☆

Submit Rating

No ratings yet.

For comments and suggestions, please **fill up this short Google form**.

[Home](#)[Exclusive News](#)[Tech News](#) ▾[Science News](#)[Reviews](#) ▾



Israeli-developed bandage for bleeding control a lifesaving innovation

Android P rumored features will wow iPhone users

You may also like

Global News • Internet & Social Media

Google granted 43.3% 'right to be forgotten' requests so far

Internet & Social Media • Local News

DICT gives a break to third telco player

Internet & Social Media • Local News

Converge ICT Solutions selects Coriant to expand metro Ethernet services across PHL

Global News • Smartphones & Gadgets

Pixel 2 battery issues arise, Google confirms investigation

Global News • Internet & Social Media

Lowdown on social media effects on youngsters' academic performance

Global News • Smartphones & Gadgets

Google Pay gets a new look, new app changes the game

Global News • Science • Smartphones & Gadgets

STUDY: Talking with your child helps in brain development

Global News • Smartphones & Gadgets

iOS 11.2.6 fixes Telugu Character Bug that causes crash in Apple devices

About the author

[Home](#)[Exclusive News](#)[Tech News ▾](#)[Science News](#)[Reviews ▾](#)

martin Ouan



Martin is a licensed Math Teacher, earning his degree in 2009. His writing career began when he worked for a New York-based online publication as a tech journalist. He then became an Editor for an International Business Times subsidiary and was promoted to Managing Editor in six months. He loves to do long drives on weekends due to its soothing effect on his entire being :D. Address: Kalibo, Aklan || Email: martins@technochops.com

[View all posts](#)

0 Comments

TechnoChops

[Login](#)

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON TECHNOCHOPS

'Dragon Ball Super' episode 101 spoilers: Guko vs. Jiren; Kale, Caulifla join Goku

2 comments • 7 months ago

Brandon JD Sponagle — lol guko

'No Man's Sky' PS4 update: ARG 'Waking Titan' seems to be entering the final stage

1 comment • 7 months ago

Ian Cooper — A year after release, we're still being bombarded with this silly idea that multiplayer is coming to NMS. Why can no one get it into their ...

'No Man's Sky: Atlas Rises' patch 1.37 notes: Improvements, changes, and fixes

1 comment • 5 months ago

Barry Brown — And still no sli support?????!!!!
Cmon this is getting very old 1080 is boring as hell...

Surface Pro 5 Release Date, Killer Specs: 2nd Windows 10 Major Update, Kaby Lake ...

2 comments • a year ago

moreThanZero666 — I can say many about Windows, but for sure , Win 10 is really good O'S .

[Subscribe](#)
[Add Disqus to your site](#)
[Add DisqusAdd](#)
[Privacy](#)

Popular Stories



Home

Exclusive News

Tech News ▾

Science News

Reviews ▾





Psychologists reveal the right mindset that increases a person's chances of...
by Judy Cordova



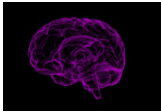
COMELEC, Barangay, and SK Candidates called to aim for cleaner, greener polls
by Martin Suan



Israeli breakthrough product detects prostate cancer in urine samples
by Judy Cordova



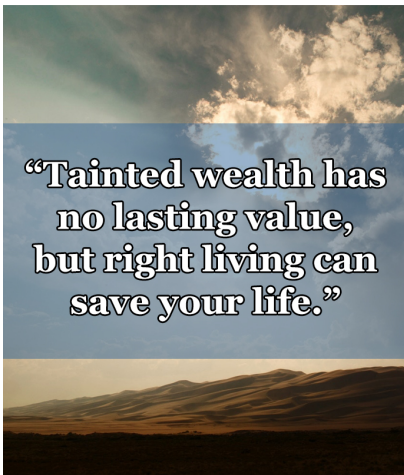
STUDY: Having children racks up 11 years of rapid cellular aging
by Judy Cordova



Israeli researchers grow mini-brains on chips, offer new insights on congenital defects
by Judy Cordova

Advertisement

Think About It



Home

Exclusive News

Tech News ▾

Science News

Reviews ▾



Advertise Here

Sign-up for our newsletter!

Sign-up today and receive weekly content for free!

Email address*

Subscribe

campaign

Advertisement

Follow Us



About Us

TechnoChops is an online publication that aims to provide timely, relevant and factual technology-related news from both the local and international landscape. We aim to ensure that people are in the loop about the latest events on this subject since we believe that knowledge and education are the key for Filipinos to be able to utilize technology to its fullest extent.

Our articles cover various topics about technology (the Internet, Cloud, gadgets, software, etc.) drawn from the [latest news, reviews](#), and [exclusive stories](#) researched and created by our team of journalists and tech enthusiasts. You can see them at the [Meet the Team](#) section.

On top of that, we cover once in a while some other news such as entertainment, sports, health, anime, and everything else that may be of interest to our audience for a little bit of diversity.

For suggestions, comments, feedback, and other concerns, feel free to [contact us](#) at any time and we'll do our best to get back to you ASAP.

